Harold Weisberg
Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
11/28/75

Hon. Maynard Jackson, Mayor
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Jackson,

You are the symbol, not the butt, of this letter. But please also understand that my anger and disappointment are addressed to all black leaders who professed love of Dr. Martin Luther King,Jr. and either were and remained silent or used his death for promoting themselves. Like right now.

My August 2 letter to you received a five-line response from Mr. Eaves. My answer to him is without response.

I have done all the investigating of the case that is represented in the defense of James Earl Ray and have participated in the legal work that has the case back in court at just the time the current jackassery can hurt most. It is a matter of sworn record that had it not been for me the case would not have gotten back before the courts. Most of the legal work has been by a young lawyer who has yet to take his first case before a jury. Neither of us has any regular income. Not a single black has at any time lifted a finger to help. At any time, in any way. Most of all those who are and have been loudest in their publicized breying that I last night and again this morning saw on TV.

Your police have established independently what I decided five years ago is worse than worthless, yet your Commissioner of Public Safety has not seen fit to reply to my inquiry, did his men learn anything of value in the course of making public fools of you, themselves and the entire black administration of Atlanta? If they did and if any of you has a genuine interest in solving the crime, is there anything more obvious that consulting with the one investigator on the case or with the one lawyer doing all the legal work?

In all these years I have done what work was possible without subsidy or income I have made many approaches to blacks in whom I'd at least find some interest. Only one in public life, Congressman, Conyers, expressed any interest. The black caucus would not even talk to me when Mr. Conyers sent me to its secretary. As for the others where I tried personally, I never got past the palace guard of any.

I approached these various black eminnences not for personal gain, which is impossible in a project like this (and has been financially ruinous to me and this young lawyer) but for help on the case. Those who prayed so loudly about their love for the martyr, whether in Memphis, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis or elsewhere, without exception were without response. The first result is that I, a honky without means or even the means of inner-city transportation, went to Memphis for investigation, which required access to blacks and a means of getting around, entirely alone and when feelings ran high. It was not without danger but it was entirely without black love or help. I also wanted to speak to some of the King party, based on what I learned in my investigation and with the thought that they could be witnesses without knowing the significance of that to which they might testify. The approaches to Dr. Abernathy must total a dozen, directly and through members of his staff. He is but one. The same is true of Jesse Jackson. Mrs. King's secretary wrote that there would be a response from her lawyers. It never came. I went to New York to see them and saw nobody.

I know what some of the suppressed evidence is and have been fighting to get it since 1969. We are at the point of filing under 5 U.S.C.552 for it in federal district court in Washington and would have by now had it not been for the needs of the case. (Can you imagine the cost of filing an appeal almost a thousand pages long or the time it required or the nature of the evidence it includes?) I belive the new Levi ploy is aimed more at this than the non-new disclosures about J. Edgar Hoover. There is but one fact in them I did not publish six years ago, that Hoover is responsible for the propaganda that, in effect, set Dr. King up. (Here is where your Mr. Eaves could be of some help if you or he have the disposition.) What Levi lacked these self-promoters have supplied by way of a feigned defense against the suit for the evidence that will be filed before you can get this. He will pretend to bow to this pressure, order a new "investigation" and then claim the law-enforcement purpose exemption of the act.

And then the two of us hookies, without income, will have this added burden to bear and, somehow, to try to overcome. The evidence then has a better chance of staying suppressed, the crime unsolved.

I do not believe or suggest that you control the black leadership or that alone you can prevent all this public indecency. But I do believe that with the willingness you can help. To this point the record shows unwillingness. My letters of the past should have had more and other response.

You, Mr. Eaves and others who have taken the time for the cheap publicity might take a little time to learn some fact. Here or there. If you, any of you, give a dmn about the man for whom I had such great admiration or for making an effort to end these kinds of tragedies or ending official corruption in connection with all of them.

Difficult as it was for me to travel before it is more so now. I have phlebitis. But when there is purpose I travel. My lecture bureau arranged a debate with David Belin for a week ago Wednesday at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. By that weekend he had changed a 12-year-old position to what I had forst asked and then forced on him. Belin is Ford's man. You may have noticed the change in Ford's position. (Belin just finished my new book and the "new" evidence in it.) This is not the kind of speech that can compete with the paranoia all the ripoff artists of both colors are so well paid to deliver and informs nobody and it might cost me the bookings of which this was the first. But is in the way of work and in this case it paid the expenses of spending some time with Ray, who is jailed in Nashville. By the time it was over I need help into and off the plane. But if a purpose is to be served, I remain prepared, if you have the slightest interest in helping solve the crime, which I believe can be done through the Ray defense only today.

I regret that this public indecency and desecretation of Dr. King's memory may interfere with my continuing efforts to force out of FBI files what remains hidden in them. It knows me well. It recently certified to a federal court, for all the world as though it were an answer to my charge (proven) of FBI perjury that I could make and prove such charges ad infinitum because I know more about the JFK assassination than anyone in the FBI. I regret also that loud-talking and self-promoting blacks have not only not helped but at every crucial point have refused to or have hurt.

I am prepared to share what I know that I can with any of sincere interest and willingness to help but not without prior evidence of good faith and some meaningful demonstration of genuineness. If you came to Washington I am an hour away. I can't get to Atlanta unless some group books an appearance. And I will not talk to any who can not keep confidences. The potential consequences are too serious.

Sincerely,

My apo,ogies for the typing errors. Harold Weisberg
The amount of work I can do daily is limited.
That under these medical conditions I write you at all I hope you will take as seriousness.